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Michigan Senate Does Its Share to Bring Awareness *Senators Show Support in Fight Against Breast Cancer*

October 8, 2003- Members of the Michigan Senate will join more than a millions nationwide this week to help the fight against breast cancer, announced Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance). In exchange for a minimum \$5 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, senators, their staffs, and other Senate department staff members will wear a pink ribbon Thursday, October 9th, in an effort to raise money for breast cancer research and early detection programs.

Thursday's event is one of many that take place during October which has been designated as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"Although breast cancer affects people year round, we have chosen this day to remember and celebrate loved ones who have been diagnosed with the disease," said Hammerstrom. "This day also shows people that, by giving as little as \$5, they have helped us come closer to finding a cure." The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation receives 100 percent of all donations to fund research, education, screening and treatment programs.

(More)

Breast cancer accounts for one out of every three cancer diagnoses in the United States, and is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, according to statistics released by the American Cancer Society. Although the occurrence is rare, men can get breast cancer. For every man that is diagnosed, however, over 100 women are found to have breast cancer.

“Many people do not realize that men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer and that this disease does not discriminate against anyone,” Hammerstrom said. “It’s important for everyone, men and women, to educate themselves on early detection methods and treatment options.”

Although nothing can prevent breast cancer, early detection can increase the rate of survival for someone who is diagnosed with the disease. Beginning in their 20s, women are encouraged to perform self-examinations each month, observing any change or abnormality in the breast. Women over the age of 40 should get annual mammograms, as this is the best way to detect breast cancer at an early stage, when it is easiest to treat.

For more information on breast cancer, including statistics and local programs and events, please visit the American Cancer Society’s website at www.cancer.org.

Comments from Senator Hammerstrom are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop or by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000.